

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

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In the Matter of)
)
Field Repair Requirements for)
Commercially-Built Transmitter)
RM-10412
And Transceiver Equipment for)
The Amateur Radio Service)
)

Comments in Opposition to
Petition by Nicklaus E. Leggett, N3NL Amateur Radio Operator

The petition would be entirely harmful to amateur radio in general and most especially to emergency communications using amateur radio.

The only effects of adopting this ill-conceived proposal would be increased costs and decreased performance of all equipment manufactured to meet the petitioner's goal of "field" repairability.

Increasing costs and decreasing performance are both clearly harmful to amateur radio and are both necessary outcomes of the proposal. If there were some worthwhile goal to be achieved, it might be worth accepting increased costs and decreased performance, but the simple fact is that there is no worthwhile goal that would be achieved by anything proposed in this petition.

Yes, some amateur radio operators have become appliance operators; this is a reflection of both the diversity of the hobby and the complexity of modern high-performance electronic equipment. Not every amateur radio operator needs or wants to know the details of every component inside each of his or her radios. Many more amateur radio operators have a good knowledge of electronic components -- and most of us know that our knowledge and manual dexterity will never match what can be accomplished by a professional design engineering team, computer aided drafting, and computer controlled assembly. The fact that a major electronics manufacturer can build a better radio than I can, does not make me a less qualified amateur radio operator -- but my ability to use that better radio does make me a better amateur radio operator and better communicator when I use that better radio in emergency communications supporting the Red Cross and other disaster service agencies.

I say this as an individual Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator (N4AOF) who is also an active and experienced emergency communicator, and proudly an appliance operator who uses those amateur radio appliances to accomplish the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

Thomas P. Currie

N4AOF, WPOL710, ex-DA1NB, ex-KGQ9027, etc.

Member, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (Kentucky, 6th District)

Member, Louisville-Jefferson County RACES

Communications Officer, American Red Cross, Louisville Area Chapter, Southwest
Branch

Secretary, Kentucky Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

President, Kentucky State REACT Council

President, Louisville METRO-REACT Team

Chairman, Training and Development Committee, REACT International, Inc.